

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 198

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION recognizing the people of Réunion in the wake of a natural disaster.

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of December 26, 2004, an earthquake of incredible magnitude struck off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island; the 9.0 earthquake, the strongest registered in forty years and the fourth-strongest since magnitude readings began in 1899, shook the ocean floor, creating in the tumult a wave of titanic proportions; and

WHEREAS, the wave rolled away in all directions at a frightening speed, catching hundreds of thousands of fishermen, coastal dwellers, and vacationers on the shores of many countries and provinces, some more than 3,000 miles away, completely unawares; and

WHEREAS, the devastation was tremendous in scope as the tsunami came aground in South Asia, India, and eastern Africa; and

WHEREAS, the figures released by the United Nations, in association with the governmental agencies of the affected countries, on February 22, 2005, are staggering: the death toll now stands at 169,752 individuals, with 127,294 people still listed as missing; and

WHEREAS, fortunately, the damages Réunion suffered from the tsunami did not include loss of life; however, more than 200 boats were sunk, and there is significant damage to the island's port infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to take this opportunity to recognize the people of Réunion in the wake of this tragedy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we offer our sincerest condolences to the people of Réunion, especially those who lost property or livelihood in the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize the global relief effort which arose in response to this disaster. The unprecedented outpouring of aid, care, and support from all corners of the globe cries a resolute testimony to the highest human qualities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of this Body hereby recognize and commend the citizens of the State of Tennessee for endeavoring to maintain our reputation as the "Volunteer State" by contributing their time, efforts, and money to those countries affected by the tsunami.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our best wishes to the embassies, government officials, and citizens of Réunion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.